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**From:** Conservation Lands Foundation  
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Monthly Update - May 31, 2017

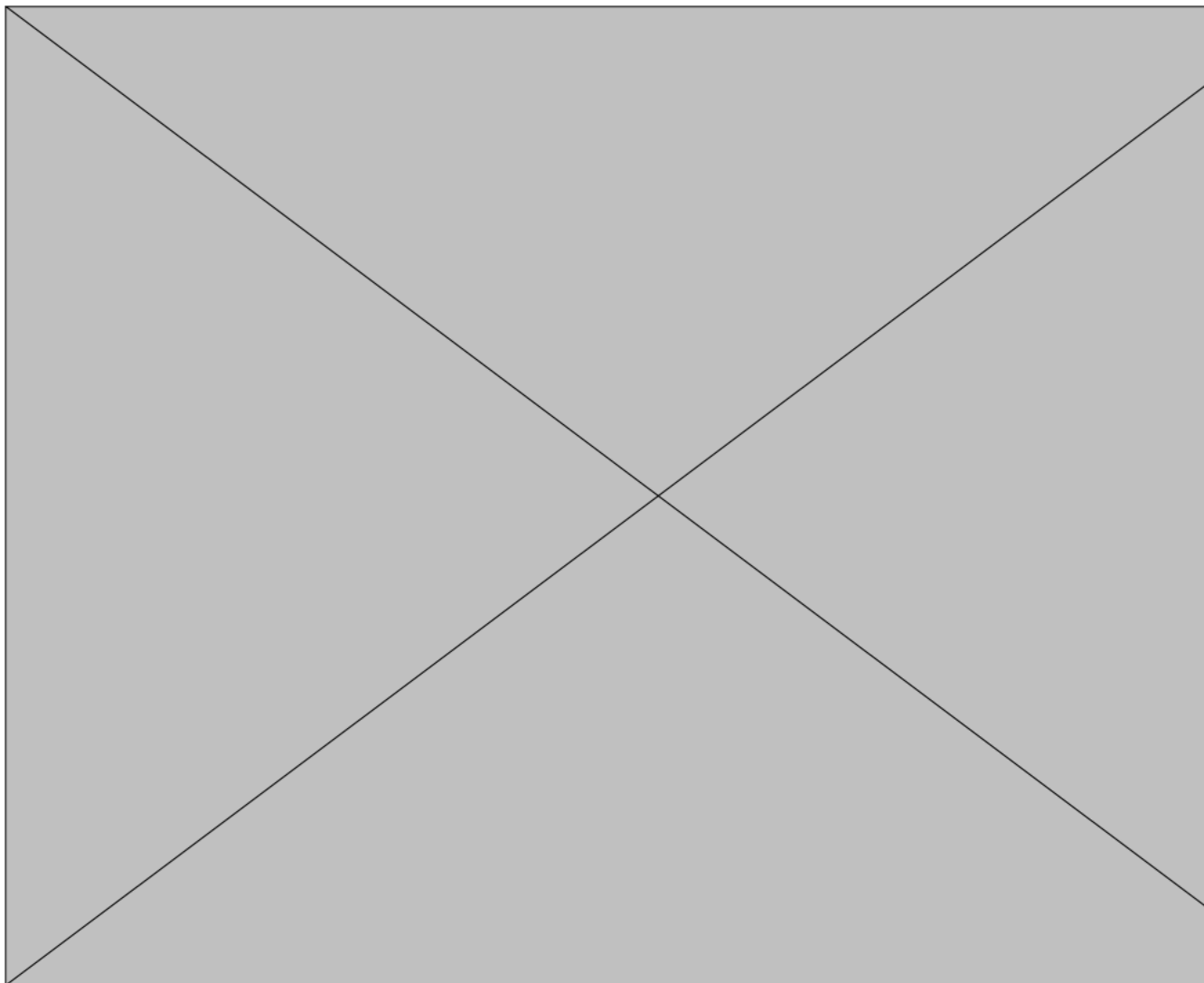
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*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

"

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



*News from the National Conservation Lands and Friends Grassroots Network--more than 60 local groups working to protect, expand and restore these treasured public lands owned by all Americans.*

## **Around the National Conservation Lands:**

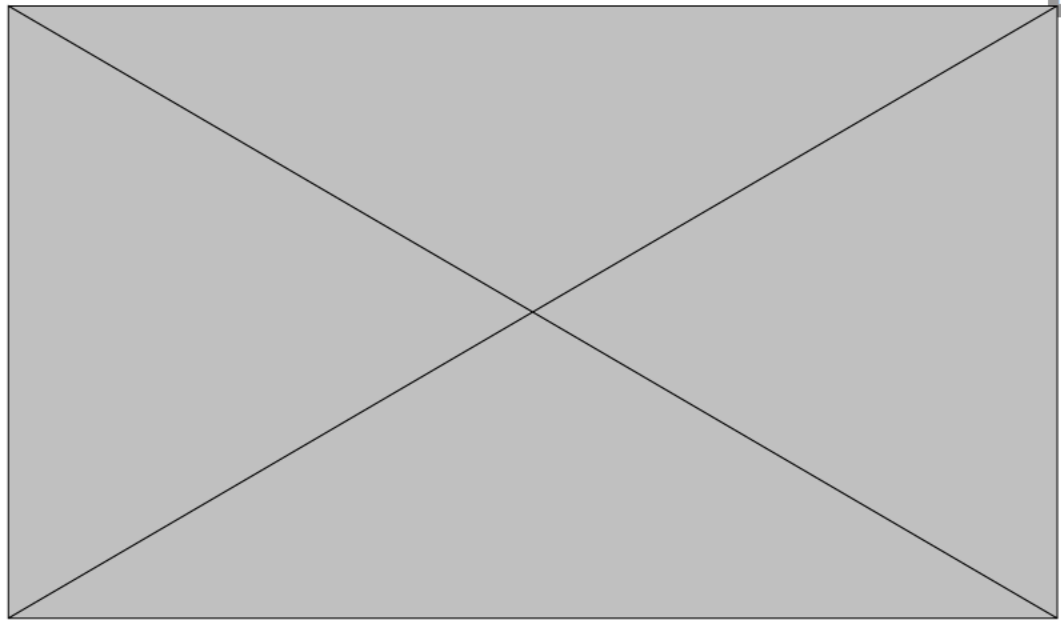
**Trump Executive Order on National Monuments "Review"**

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## Met With Swift Condemnation From Groups, Editorial Boards Around the Country



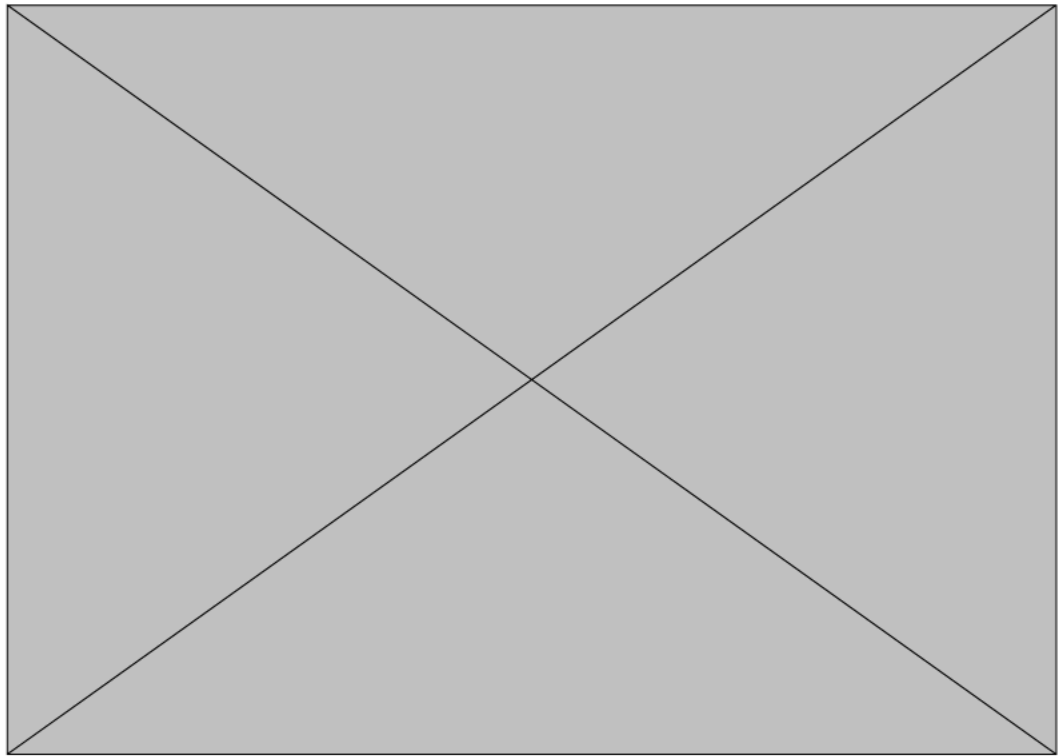
On April 26, 2017, the Conservation Lands Foundation issued a statement from Jo Wallin, Acting Executive Director, in response to President Trump's Executive Order on the review of national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act:

"This 'review' of national monuments is a waste of time and money. The public review happened over many years already, and that's why we have popular monuments and why the Antiquities Act is America's most important conservation law.

This Executive Order is a distraction designed to undermine the efforts of local communities who worked hand in hand with businesses, Tribes, sportsmen, and recreationists to protect the best of America's outdoor heritage. It is an attack on America's national parks, our national conservation lands and other protected lands and waters. But it also has the cynical, sinister intent of stealing from Tribes and communities of color their opportunities to tell their stories through the Antiquities Act..."

[Read the complete statement here...](#)

## Editorial Boards Agree: Hands Off Our National Monuments



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*From Westwise, the blog from Center for Western Priorities:*

In the days following President Trump's executive order triggering a review of 21 years of national monument designations, newspaper editorial boards across the West and the nation weighed in with swift and severe condemnations of the president's actions.

Here's a sampling of what they had to say:

*The Salt Lake Tribune*, "Utah's national monuments have already justified themselves"

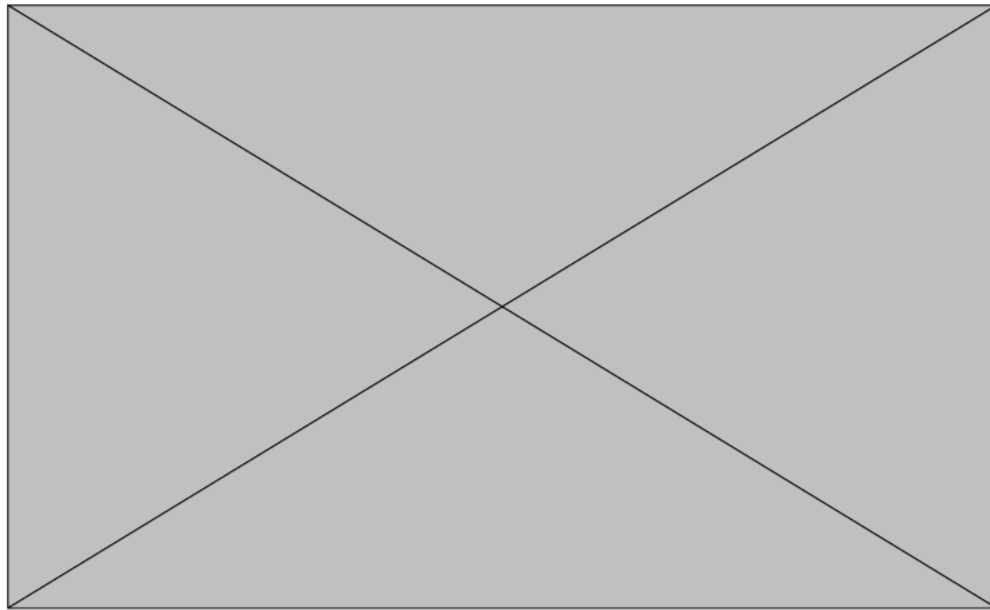
The president's justification is built on factual sand. "Federal land grab"? Both monuments were already federal land before they were declared. "Preserving our land"? There is no argument to be made that monuments haven't preserved land. "Free it up?" What does that even mean? Free to overgraze and drive wherever we want? We've been there, and no one wants that.

[Read the complete blog from Center For Western Priorities...](#)

**In The News:**

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***Deseret News:***  
**Op-ed: Leave Bears Ears and Grand Staircase As They Are**  
*May 4, 2017, by Suzanne Catlett, Board President, Escalante & Boulder, Utah Chamber of Commerce*

"Our elected officials have offered ungrounded assertions on the impact of the monument, while turning their back on the vibrant and growing industry that already exists there.

The facts tell a very different story, and represent what those of us living in these communities know - the monument has been very good us. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the 2010 U.S. Census, Garfield County has seen improved property values, household income and per-capita income."

[Read the complete Deseret News op-ed here...](#)

***The Daily Beast:***  
**Why Trump Wants To Shrink National Monuments**  
*April 27, 2017, by Jay Michaelson*

"For example, [CLF Senior Director of Conservation, Ryan] Bidwell emphasized that 'the Obama administration conducted public meetings and engaged stakeholders in every single designation, and carefully crafted designations to protect only the smallest area

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necessary, as required by the Antiquities Act.' To win in court, the Trump administration will have to either match that effort, or explain why it was inadequate.

And then there's the political pressure. While it's clear to see who wins when public lands are auctioned off, it's also not hard to see who loses: ordinary people who, poll after poll indicates, think that public lands should be set aside for... the public. As the Trump administration's environmental rollbacks are challenged in court, it may be the court of public opinion that matters the most."

[Read the complete article in The Daily Beast here...](#)

## **New Monuments Of The National Conservation Lands Provide Access For Dogs**

Enjoy some of America's greatest landscapes with your greatest four-legged companions (horses can come too).

*By Lucie Maguire (pictured above)*

I was born in the countryside and my earliest experiences were of playing in the fields for hours with my brothers and sisters, enjoying the freedom of the outdoors. Then I moved to California where I got my first taste of beach life, going for long runs along the windy coastline, exploring the tide pools, and hiking the bluffs. After that, I moved to the desert, where I was surrounded by unhindered open space as far as my eyes could see. My happiest times, when I feel the most alive, joyful, and complete, have always been in the outdoors.

[Read the complete article on BuzzFeed...](#)

## **Outdoor Research Blog: A Veteran's Plea: Fight For the Public Lands We Fought For**

*Published May 9, 2017, by Joshua Brandon, Army combat veteran*

"The natural and historic heart of America is under attack. I wish that was hyperbole, but it's not. Hot on the heels of the H.R. 621, the failed lands bill calling for the sale of 3.3 million acres of American lands, the President has signed an executive order targeting our national monuments created through Teddy Roosevelt's Antiquities Act of 1906. This revolutionary act was intended to provide the President with the power to fast track the preservation our historic, prehistoric, and natural heritage during a time of rampant exploitation and abuse. I'm asking you to step up and protect these places and this is why..."

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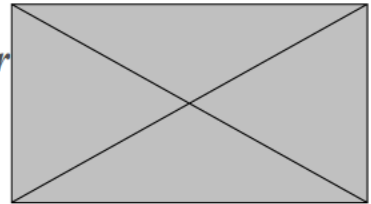
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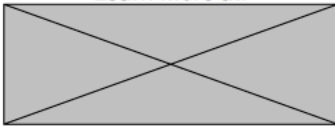
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[Read the complete article on the Outdoor Research blog...](#)

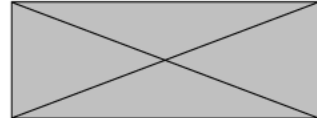
***On behalf of all us at CLF, whether you are  
part of the Friends Grassroots Network, a donor  
or a supporter -  
thank you for all you do.***



Learn More at:



Please send questions to:  
[dave@conservationlands.org](mailto:dave@conservationlands.org)



Conservation Lands Foundation, 835 E. 2nd Ave., #314, Durango, CO 81301

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